



Methamphetamines

**Retail Merchant
Prevention Program-
A Partnership with the
Attorney General
Of Virginia**
"Virginia Meth Watch"

Methamphetamines



- Synthetically produced central nervous system stimulant.
- Highly addictive.
- Easily produced with common store-bought items.
- Aside from marijuana, methamphetamine is the only widely abused illegal drug that is readily manufactured or capable of being produced by the actual abuser.

Sources of Methamphetamines in Virginia



1. **Importation:**
 - * **Traditional Source**
 - **Motorcycle Gangs (1960s)**
 - **Mexican trafficking organizations (1990s)**
 - **Other**
2. **Clandestine Laboratories:
a.k.a. Small Toxic Labs (STLs)**

Common Ingredients



- Pseudoephedrine Products (Cold and Allergy Pills)
- Camping Fuel
- Iodine
- Matches
- Fertilizer (anhydrous ammonia)
- Drain Cleaner
- Isopropyl or Rubbing Alcohol
- Paint Thinner
- Sulfuric Acid
- Aluminum Foil
- Toluene
- Coffee Filters
- Rock or Table Salt
- Battery Acid
- Pool (Muriatic) Acid
- Red Phosphorous Road Flares
- Camera (lithium) Batteries
- Acetone
- Rubber hoses or tubing
- Mason Jars
- HEET (gas additives)
- Lye
- Ether (Engine Starter)

Clandestine Labs



- Small and portable.
- Use any available structure, ranging from a vehicle to a location such as a hotel room.
- Found in urban and rural areas, each with their own unique risks.
- High rate of return – 10:1 ratio

Clandestine Labs: A Virginia Problem



- “It looks like a wildfire moving east”
-Dan Salter, DEA agent,
Quantico Training Academy
- The recipe has spread rapidly across the internet.
- Ingredients are easy to acquire.

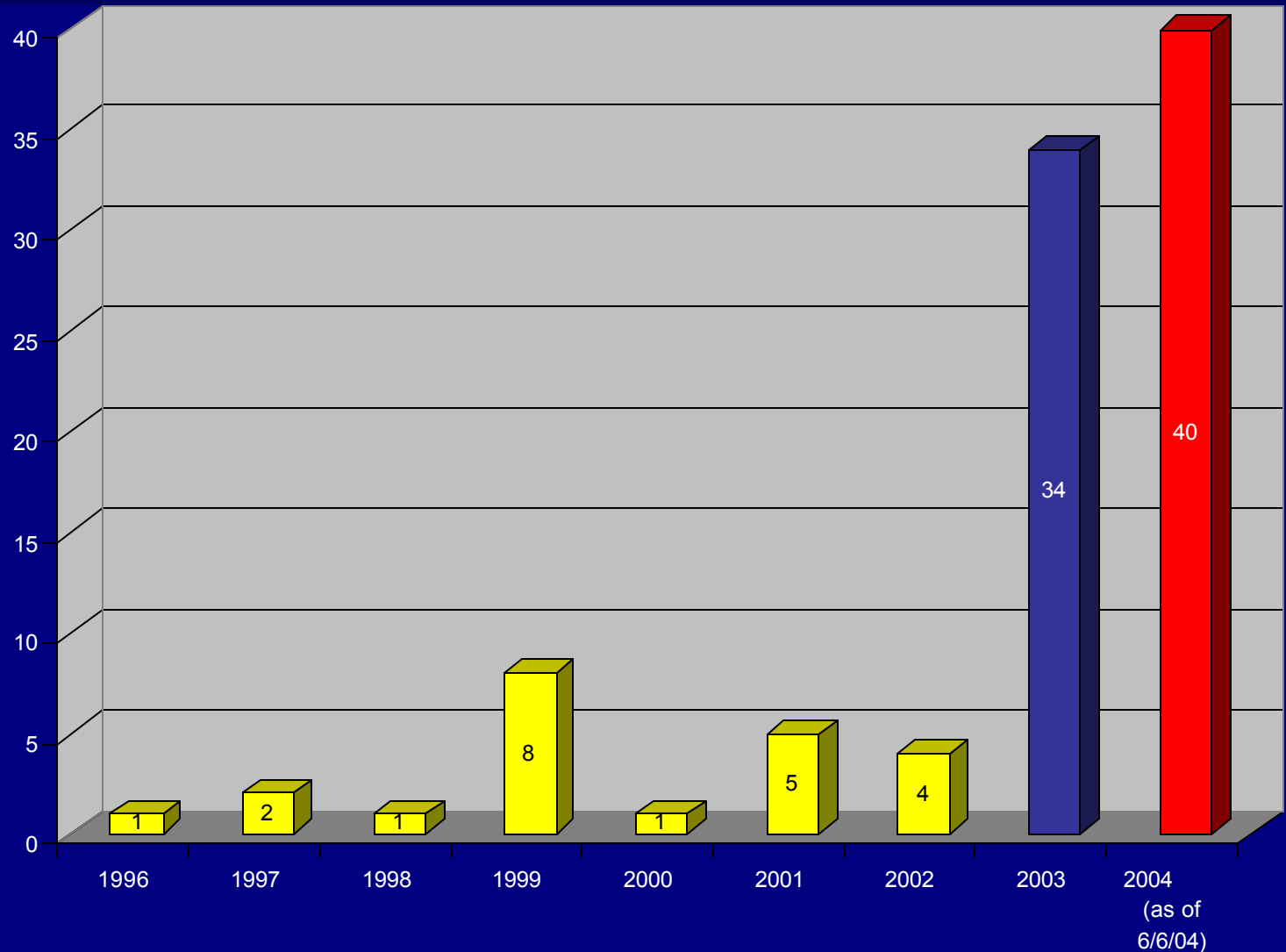
Recent Virginia Developments



- We will likely double or triple last years discovered labs. (34 total labs in 2003)
-Sgt. M.T. Conroy, Virginia State Police
- Pulaski County implemented merchant and landlord training after a lab fire that destroyed a 10-unit apartment complex.
- Smyth County enacted a special grand jury last year that does nothing but investigate and bring charges in meth-related cases.
 - Shay Wessol, "Virginia Officials find meth lab No. 33 for this year", Roanoke Times, April 29th 2004.

Methamphetamine Lab Seizures

-- Virginia --



1996-2002 Source: EPIC/CLSS

2003-2004 Source: Virginia State Police

Clandestine Labs Incidents



Nationally in 2002:

- 638 associated Fires Explosions
- 23 associated Deaths (two children)

2003:

- 570 associated Fires and Explosions
- 30 associated deaths (one child)



Voluntary Programs Reduce the Need for Rigid Legislative Response



- Allows for a more flexible approach that may be tailored to fit the individual merchant.
- Reduces the possibility of onerous requirements.
- Allows national/multi-state retailers to maintain consistent training and implementation

Beyond Virginia



■ Legislative Approach

Ex. All pharmacists must report excessive purchases of certain non-prescription drugs

■ Voluntary Programs

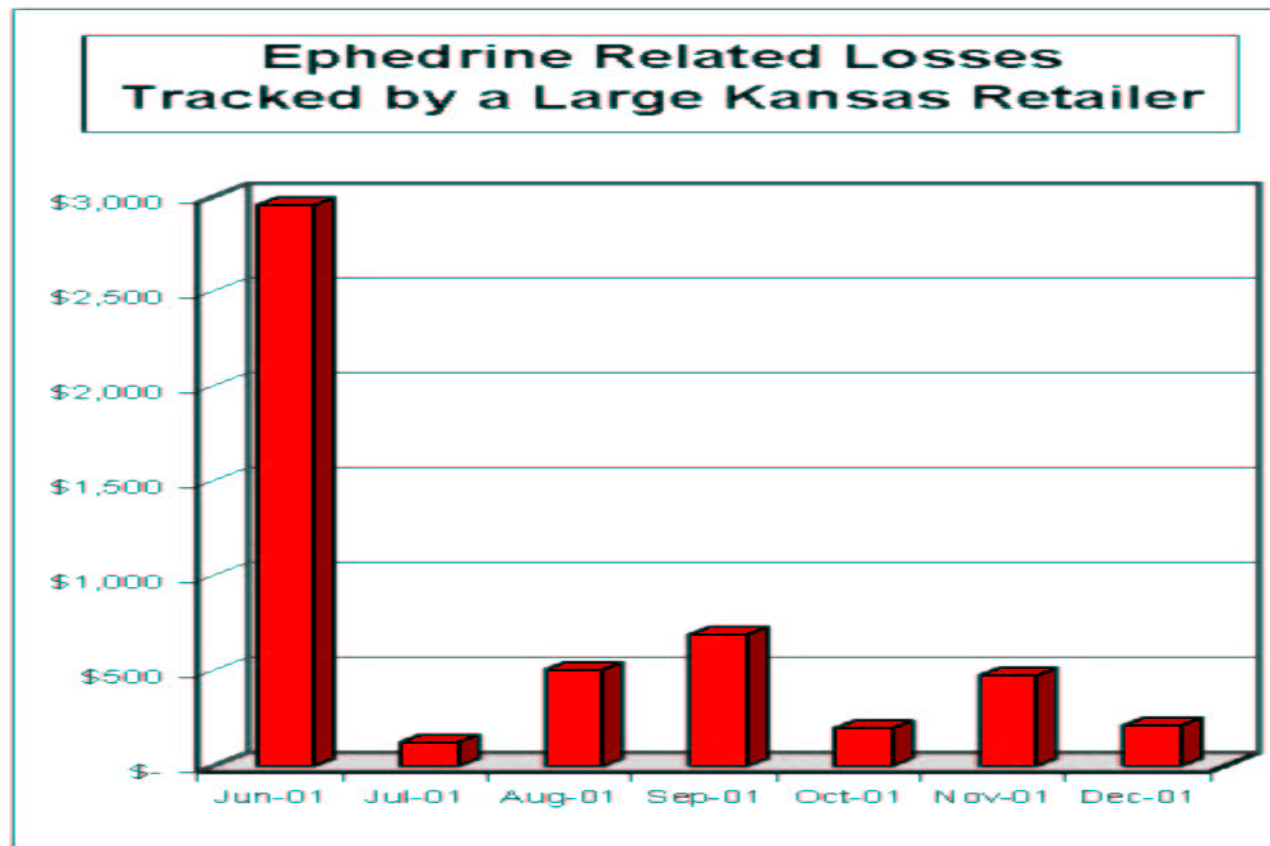
Ex. Kansas Plan; North Carolina Plan; CHPA (pending plan) and DEA Alternatives



Benefits to Retailers

- **Economic**
 - Reduced Theft
- **Social and Safety**
 - Increase Public Awareness
 - Positive Publicity
 - Increase Customer Security
 - Increase Positive Interaction with Law Enforcement
 - Corporate Citizenship

Cooperation Benefits Retailers



Some Merchants and Trade Groups Currently Participating in Other Regions



- Wal-Mart
 - K-mart
- Walgreens
 - 7-Eleven
 - Eckerd
 - CVS
 - CHPA

How the Virginia Program Would Work



- Strictly voluntary
- Three phases/levels – each builds upon the previous.
- Merchants may choose based on their individual abilities/capabilities.
- Merchants may change phases/levels at any time.
- Program will be endorsed by relevant organizations.

Participating Member



- Employee/Management training (video)
- Work room poster
- Suspicious transaction reporting

Sponsor



- Limiting shelf quantities
- Voluntary sales limit
- Point of sale postings or front entrance postings

Patron



- Cash register blocks
- Storeroom precautions
- Product placement techniques OR
Surveillance of product isles OR
Anti-theft tags

Benefits



- Good corporate citizen
- Community recognition
- Public service announcements
- Certificate of appreciation